

The reservists have been faced with confusion in signing up for the coverage. For those administering the program, administrative requirements have created a nightmare of paperwork, especially those mandating verification that those declining the program were indeed offered the opportunity to participate; and

Whereas, a glaring example of the problems with the RRMIP is the question of when a person can sign up and if coverage can be changed. A sixty-day window for enrollment was opened October 1, 1996. Due to administrative complications, another window for enrollment was opened later. However, reservists from the initial sign-up period were not allowed to enhance their coverage, and

Whereas, it is unfair to prevent those who signed up for coverage during the initial enrollment period the option of increasing coverage when this opportunity is presented to others. This is certainly not the practice when enrollments for insurance are opened for employees in other governmental agencies or institutions. This worthwhile program needs to be improved to better serve our reservists and their families. Failure to provide these needed improvements is an affront to those who have put themselves in peril for our nation, as well as to everyone who values the sacrifices our military reservists make on behalf of every American; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States appropriate sufficient funds to ensure that the obligation to current enrollees is satisfied; and be it further

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to make changes in the Ready Reserve Mobilization Income Insurance Program; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 39. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to support the International Dolphin Conservation Program in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1011. A bill for the relief of Marina Khalina and her son, Albert Miftakhov; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 1012. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to correct the tariff treatment of costumes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BURNS, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1013. A bill to provide for the guarantee of the payment of interest on loans to certain air carriers for the purchase of regional

jet aircraft to improve air transportation to underserved markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1014. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include liability to pay compensation under workmen's compensation acts within the rules relating to certain personal liability assignments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1015. A bill to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 1016. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coastal Heritage Trail Route in New Jersey, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1015. A bill to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOOD BAY LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1997

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to authorize and direct a land exchange which will greatly benefit the community of Sitka, AK. This bill will: ensure that an important water system now currently under an easement will be conveyed to the city of Sitka in order to provide its residents with an assured water supply into the future; provide for a spectacular inholding encompassing approximately 50 acres on Admiralty Island to be added to the Admiralty Island National Monument; extinguish a reversionary interest on land owned at Sitka by the Alaska Pulp Corp. In return for the extinguishment of the reversionary interest, the corporation will convey the 50-acre inholding on Admiralty Island to the Forest Service to be included in the monument, as well as the water system lands to the city of Sitka.

Mr. President, Admiralty Island is an area with outstanding conservation values. The land exchange authorized in the bill I am sponsoring will ensure that this private inholding is included in the monument and in the wilderness area as appropriate.

This exchange is supported by the city and borough of Sitka, and the city administrator has requested me to sponsor this legislation and expedite the exchange.

This exchange is truly in the best interests of all involved. The U.S. Government even comes out ahead on value. Recent appraisals for the various lands and interests exchanged show that the Admiralty Island land is valued at more than the reversionary interest which will be exchanged. As a condition of my legislation, the corporation is required to waive its right

to any compensation for this difference in value.

In summary, as a result of this exchange the Admiralty Island Monument land ownership pattern will be consolidated, the city of Sitka will receive valuable lands in fee ownership on which parts of its water system are located, and the corporation will be free of a problematic reversionary interest in its property. As a bonus, the Federal Government realizes a net benefit in the value of the exchange. This is a sound deal in the best interests of all parties.

It is my hope that this legislation can pass this body and the Congress in the near future.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 1016. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coastal Heritage Trail Route in New Jersey, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

LEGISLATION TO REAUTHORIZE THE NEW JERSEY COASTAL HERITAGE TRAIL ROUTE

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation reauthorizing the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route. The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail is the crown jewel of the Jersey Shore and my bill will provide the necessary funding to complete the trail and preserve it for future generations of New Jersey residents and visitors.

The Coastal Heritage Trail Route was first authorized in 1988 through Public Law 100-515, legislation authored by former Senator Bill Bradley. I was proud to cosponsor. The legislation allowed the Secretary of the Interior to design a vehicular route that would enable the public to appreciate, enjoy, and work to protect, the nationally significant natural and cultural sites along the New Jersey coastline and the Delaware Bay. When completed, the trail system will include five self-discovery theme trails which travel along the coast of New Jersey. The 275 miles of the trail which will travel through eight counties, will begin north in Perth Amboy, continue down the Atlantic Coast to Cape May in the south, and head northwest along the Delaware Bay shoreline to Deepwater. The trail will be accessible from the Garden State Parkway and Route 49, and well-marked routes will lead from the corridors to regional welcome centers which will include interpretative information.

The National Park Service, through a partnership with the State of New Jersey, the Pinelands Commission, and local communities, recorded nearly 400 sites and developed alternative concepts for trail protection and interpretation. These activities were documented in the "Resource Inventory and Study of Alternatives", released in November 1990. In April 1991, after public review and comment of this document, the Park Service established an overall trail concept.